

SELF-SERVICE CENTER

INSTRUCTIONS: HOW TO COMPLETE THE COURT ORDER REGARDING PETITION FOR GRANDPARENT VISITATION

This order is designed for grandparents or great grandparents who want to get a court order for visitation.

The Order is the legal document that is the judge's decision on the court lawsuit. The signed Order is important because it determines the rights and responsibilities of all parties. If a party does not follow the Order, then other parties can ask the Court for help in enforcing the terms of the Order.

When filling out any court forms, type or print with black ink only!

Important reminder!! Your order should repeat as closely as possible what you requested in your grandparent visitation petition unless the opposing party has provided written consent to any changes. You cannot mark something different in the order from what you asked for in the petition unless the change clearly benefits the opposing party. If you do, the judge or commissioner will not sign the order. If you want to change your request, you must file an amended petition. **Have your petition at hand when you fill out your order.**

The first part of the Judgment and Order--the Court Findings:

1. This states that the court has all information necessary to enter a Judgment and Order.
2. This states that this court is able to make the Orders relating to you and the opposing party.
3. This states that the court will make only those Orders that are in the best interests of the children.
4. Print or type the full names and dates of birth for the minor children in the spaces provided.
5. Print or type the full names and dates of birth of the grandparents who will have visitation, in the spaces provided.
6. This states the legal reason you are entitled to the visitation
7. This lists the persons against whom this order is effective. If a parent or guardian is not a party to the case, the order is not effective as to that parent or guardian.

The second part of the Judgment and Order--It Is Ordered That:

1. **VISITATION:** write in everything you said you wanted in the petition. Remember that if the judge disagrees, he or she might write in something else. But, you cannot write in something other than what you asked for in the petition.
2. **OTHER MATTERS:** if there are other things you have asked for in the Petition that have not already been covered in the Judgment and Order. Be specific and be sure you use the same or similar language to what you said in your Petition.

Judges' signature:

At the hearing the judge will ask questions and then make any changes he or she thinks are appropriate to the Order you submitted or write his or her own order. The judge will sign the order, which becomes your legal order of visitation.